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The China Mail.

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CHUN YU MAN,
Manager and Publisher.
SUBSCRIPTION:
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Established February 1845.

No. 10,842

號五廿月一十年七十九百八千一英

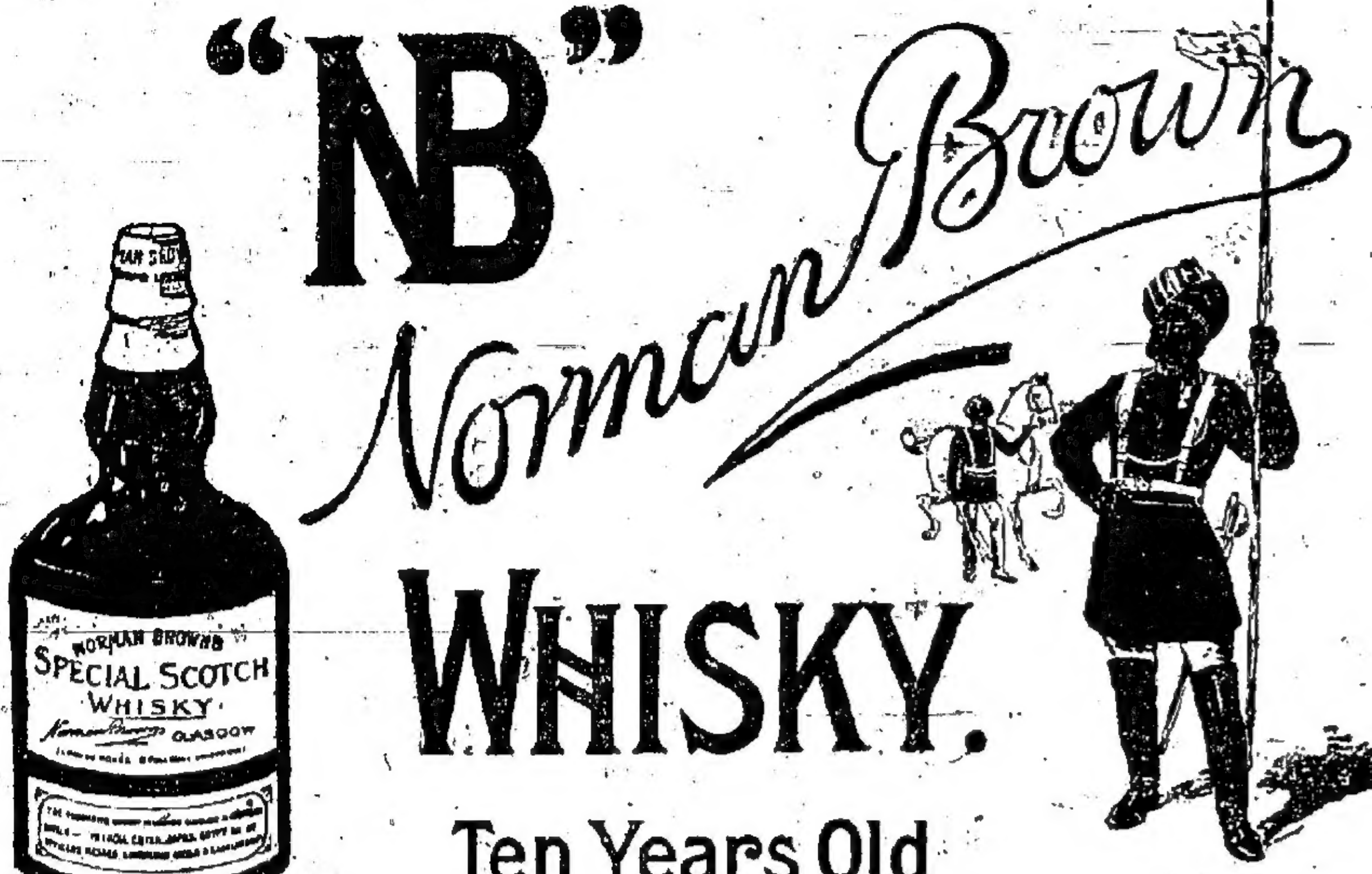
HONGKONG, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1897.

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A very fine blend. Matured and Mellow.

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BASS' LIGHT GRAVITY 4 Dns. Qts. 8 Dns. Pints.
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Hongkong, November 25, 1897.

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SHANGHAI NKI KOBÉ & YOKO. Malacca ... N. P. FOLLOE, R.N. ... Day light, 23rd Nov.

SHANGHAI ... Mirapore ... T. WILKINSON ... About 23rd November.

LONDON ... Mantis ... R. S. BARROW, R.N. ... About 30th November.

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For Freight or Passage, and further Particulars, apply to

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1350 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

A FIRST-CLASS HOTEL adjoining the Tramway Terminus. Fine Healthy

Location, commanding magnificent view of the City and Harbour, the Mainland

of China, and Islands; cool southern breeze in Summer, with perfect protection against

the North-East winds in Winter.

A Covered Way has been constructed from the Station to the Hotel.

The Hotel is now under European Management.

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GLAZED STONEWARE BRICK PIPES AND FITTINGS, GLAZED PAVING

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Hongkong, Nov. 17, 1897.

2382

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Qualifies for Promoting the Growth of the Hair and Scalp.

THE WORLD-RENOVED REMEDY FOR DANDRUFF.

For Curbing Weak and Thin Eyelashes, Preserving, Strengthening, and Restoring the Hair beautifully

Soft. For removing Scurf, Dandruff, etc. Also for Restoring Grey Hair to its Natural Colour. (Its without

a rival. Physicians and druggists pronounce it to be devoid of any irritant or other injurious ingredients.

4/6, 2/6, and 1/6 (in 1/2 size) 6/6 per bottle. May be had from Chemists, Hairdressers, and Stores all

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"EDWARDS' HAIR" CO., 23 & 25, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

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A N INTERIM DIVIDEND on Account

of the year 1897, at the Rate of Fifty

Cents per Share (or 5% on the Capital

of the Company) will be PAYABLE at the

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, Hong-

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WARRANTS to be obtained from the

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requested to apply at the Company's

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The DIVIDEND will also be PAYABLE

at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK,

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The REGISTER OF SHARES will be

CLOSED from SATURDAY, the 20th

Instant, till SATURDAY, the 27th instant,

both days inclusive, during which period

no TRANSFER OF SHARES can be REGISTERED.

By Order, A. H. MANCILL, Secretary.

Hongkong, November 9, 1897.

2214

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KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

Hongkong, November 20, 1897.

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BEGS to announce that from this date

he intends to carry on Business at the

above address, and that he is prepared to

supply DESIGNS and SPECIFICATIONS

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Repairs Supervised and Surveys Undertaken.

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Hongkong, November 28, 1887.

2870 Hongkong, November 25, 1897.

2308 Do, 1 for Bangkok, 10 Macosopa and 1 Do, Maham overnight

Hongkong, October 22, 1897.

1917

7

Hongkong, October 22, 1897.

7

* On page 5 will be found the second letter from the Shanghai correspondent of *The Times* on what should be the new policy of Great Britain towards China.

At the Magistrate's today, a Chinaman charged with returning from banishment was committed for trial. The prisoner, who was banished on October 5, denies the charge.

Down to 20th October the total number of men idle throughout the United Kingdom, in consequence of the labour difficulties in the engineering trade, was 89,000, including 30,000 engineers and 25,000 labourers.

Messrs H. Price and Co. have drawn our attention to the near approach of the New Year by the presentation of a pretty calendar, giving a photograph, illustration of a pretty English river scene.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Netherdale Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—
A cheque for £100 from A. F. S. 25
J. H. L. 5

At the annual meeting of the members of the Hongkong Rifle Association, held yesterday afternoon in the City Hall, Sir John Carrington was unanimously elected President, and Mr A. Chapman, Hon. Secretary. A spoon competition will take place on Saturday over the 200 and 300 yards ranges.

The second race of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club for the Commodore's Cup will be sailed on Saturday afternoon. The course will be from the Police Pier at Kowloon, round Channel Rocks, No. 1 Dock Buoy, Meyer's west buoy (leaving all to port), twice round; 10 miles. The start will take place at 2.30. The Handicap and plan of course will be posted up in the V.R.C. at 1 o'clock on Saturday.

In his Consular Report on the trade of Chiengmai in 1896, Consul Beckett gives an example of how Manchester piece-goods are being supplanted amongst the poorer natives in the interior of Siam. He says:—The piece-goods have hitherto been almost entirely of British manufacture, but of late there have been considerable importations of Swiss 'phal' and 'paphun', and flowered prints used by the women as scarves, which are sold at cheaper rates than the Manchester goods, and offer the variety which the native of Northern Siam loves so much. It is not improbable that a Swiss firm at Bangkok will in the near future establish a branch in Chiengmai for the sale of Swiss-made cotton piece-goods.

At a tea-party at 4.45 p.m. yesterday, at a tea-party establishment at No. 103 Queen's Road Central, the fire was, however, extinguished by the police on the spot, before any damage was done. The Fire Brigade were turned out about a quarter to two o'clock this morning to an outbreak of fire on the Fraya Reclamation. The outbreak occurred amongst a quantity of planks stacked on the Reclamation. The firemen from No. 7 Police Station, in charge of Inspector Hennessy, speedily extinguished the flames, and before the arrival of the Brigade from the Central, in charge of Captain Superintendent May and Deputy Superintendent Howe, all danger was over.

Western civilisation is carrying on a vigorous assault upon the walls of Chinese exclusiveness, and who knows what victories may be achieved very soon! A European firm advertises itself as piano-builders to His Celestial Majesty the Emperor of China, and in Mr Grosvenor's report on the Trade of China in 1896 we read that a motor car is about to be added to the toilers of street life in the Chinese metropolis. Mr Grosvenor writes:—It may be of interest to note that a wealthy Chinaman of the capital has given an order for an automobile car to a French firm of manufacturers. It is not known of this example his yet been followed, but the vehicle supplied may, if proved to be constructed with the stoutness and solidity rendered requisite by the peculiar character of the metropolitan thoroughfares, be the means of crossing a profitable demand.

A disastrous fire occurred last night in the village of Stanley, five houses being completely burned. The outbreak originated about seven o'clock in a chandler's store. The contents of the store being of a highly inflammable nature, the conflagration spread with alarming rapidity along the row of one-story houses. Inspector Baker and the police constables in the village used every endeavour to prevent the spread of the flames, but the conflagration was only extinguished after one of the houses in the row had been pulled down. Five houses were completely burned. Had it not been for the prompt and decisive action of the Police, it is probable that the fire might have devastated the whole of the village. It is about sixteen years since the last outbreak of fire occurred in the village, and on that occasion the fire was confined to the house where it originated.

88 Prizes by 14 different makers in stock, all built for climate. The greatest variety in style, price and quality of toys in the South. W. Robinson & Co.

The gang robbery and murder case was again before Mr Woodhouse, at the Magistrate's today, when some further corroborative evidence was given as to the identification and arrest of the prisoners, after which the case was further remanded.

Last night, Alexander, the Australian Blundin, gave a high wire and trapeze performance on the Military Parade Ground before a large attendance of spectators. He performed a number of skilful feats on the wire, walking up a steep incline and accomplishing several balancing items, which were much appreciated by the spectators. He also showed his skill on the trapeze, and afterwards gave an amusing blindfold act. The night's performance concluded with a bicycle ride along the wire, in the midst of a blaze of fireworks. Alexander was assisted by the Nigger Snowball, who gave a number of comic songs. During the evening a collection was taken on Blundin's behalf. Another performance will be given on Friday night.

An interesting race was sailed on Wednesday afternoon in the Harbour. The challenger was the *Sybil* (R.E. 1st class boat), steered by Mrs Langhorne, and the other boat Mr C. D. Wilkinson's second-class *Ladybird*, steered by Miss Carrington. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round the Channel Rocks, and the Chequered Buoy (leaving both to port) and back across the line; 6 miles. It was perfect sailing weather for both boats, fairly smooth. The boats, towing tenders, crossed the line together. In the run back, in a heavy puff of out Kowloon Bay, *Ladybird's* spinnaker boom carried away. There was no appreciable delay while the wreck was cleared away, and as the *Ladybird* held the lead she could dispose with her spinnaker. *Ladybird* won by four minutes. Both helmswomen steered admirably, and with strict attention to duty. This is the second time Miss Carrington has steered the *Ladybird* to victory since the opening of the season—the 'pen is mightier than the sword'!

VERSELS AT THE DOCK:—At Kowloon:—H.I.G.M.S. *Ironclad*, *Mongkut*, H.I.G.M.S. *Moero*, Victoria.
At Canton:—(None).
At Hongkong:—West York.

THE DEFENCES OF CANTON.

ACTIVITY OF THE VICE-ROY.
The *Chung Ngai*, *Sun Po*, a native paper published in Hongkong, states that a telegram has been received by the Viceroy at Canton from Shantung (not from Peking as has been published elsewhere) informing him that the Germans have landed and occupied the forts at Kiaochow. Thereupon, the Viceroy immediately held a council of war, and with a view to have the Boen Tigris forts in the Canton River put into a fit condition to repel any attempt to advance on Canton. Our native contemporary also hears that General Chang, who commands the land forces, has arrived in Canton to consult with the Viceroy on the strength of the defences.

None of the other Chinese newspapers in Canton or Hongkong contain anything confirming the above, which is evidently based on native gossip.
It is not at all improbable, however, that the prompt action of the Germans at Kiaochow, amounting to an act of hostility following on an ultimatum, has created a scare in Chinese official circles. We learn that it is usual for the Chinese forces to assemble for drill at this period of the year at Yin-long, outside Canton, and the troops commenced their fifteen days' training yesterday.

New Music Catalogue now ready, gratis. Please send in for it. W. Robinson & Co.

From the 1st to the 15th Nov. 280,200 silver yen were imported into Kobe from Hongkong, and 2,540 yen from Singapore, while 130,000 yen were exported to Korea.
The casualties which have occurred in fighting on the Manchurian frontier from June to October 28th amount to 1,090, of which 247 are killed. The details are as follows:—Staff and departmental officers, 1 killed and 5 wounded; regimental officers, 28 killed and 47 wounded; British rank and file, 34 killed and 151 wounded; native officers, 4 killed and 29 wounded; native rank and file, 177 killed and 595 wounded; followers, 8 killed and 16 wounded. These figures do not include the casualties at the Sanyang Pass.

A stock in bananas, looked bananas, has been started in the United States, the well-known fruit being now said to be an 'ideal food' for the nervous, the anaemic, and for brain-workers. Strange to say, the raw fruit is said to be dangerous, as it contains 'germs', but when baked it becomes properties never heard of before. In this country we cannot get bananas in perfection, but they have them in fine condition in New York, to which city and other places on the Atlantic seaboard they are quickly transported from the Bahamas. Fruits of *Musa paradisiaca* and *M. sapientum*, the bananas and the plantain, have long been known as a staple article of food in tropical countries, where they are cultivated just as the cereals and the farinaceous tubers are in temperate regions. In fact, cultivation has produced considerable variety in form, colour, and flavour. Humboldt and Boussingault estimated that in a suitable climate, and well cultivated, a banana plant will produce on an average three hundred of fruit weighing 44 lbs. each per annum, and that in hot climates more than 130,000 lbs. of good food could be grown per acre—an amount greatly in excess of the yield of potatoes, which are, moreover, said to be less nutritious. That has, however, been disputed by all travellers and investigators ever that the banana is an excellent food baked, roasted, fried, or boiled. In this country bananas weighing as much as 60 lbs. have been grown in hot houses.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Supplied to the 'China Mail'.)

LONDON, 22nd November.
GERMANY IN CHINA.
The Kaiser's *Augusta*, from Crete, has entered the Suez Canal on her way to China to reinforce the German squadron. It is understood that the *Ostion*, another German cruiser, is also going to China. The *Standard's* Correspondent at Berlin states that Germany informed Russia, Austria, and Italy, last spring, that it was her intention to acquire a naval station in China.

SUPREME COURT.
IN BANKRUPTCY.
(Before His Honor Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice.)
Thursday, September 25.

A PERSIAN OPIUM MERCHANT'S TROUBLES.
Mr. Mohamed Aliy Shirazee, opium merchant, was examined in bankruptcy.

Mr O. D. Thomson (Messrs Deacon and Hastings) represented Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co., agents for the Imperial Bank of Persia; Mr D'Almeida watched the proceedings on behalf of the debtor. Mr. Mohamed Aliy Shirazee, Official Receiver, examined the debtor, who stated he had been nineteen years in the Colony and eight years in business on his own account. He said his native language was Persian, but he had learned to speak Hindustani in the Colony to answer the questions put to him. He was eleven years in the employment of H. M. Macdonald Alley and Co., Persian opium merchants, as clerk, before starting as a Persian opium merchant and general commission agent on his own account. He started with a capital of about \$8000 of his own money. He had dealt in opium with him, in the last year or two, and he had been brought to grief both in opium and cotton. Sometimes he made profits, but he had been losing money for the last three years. Before he commenced to lose money, his average profit for the last three years amounted to between \$2,500 and \$3,000. His personal expenses during the last three years amounted to between \$120 and \$150 per month, and his profits, therefore, at that time amounted to about \$1,200 a year. He had lost his capital and profits within the last three years by the fact of exchange and by the fact that he had not been able to meet his draft in consequence of not having received the money for it. He signed the draft proceeding to get opium, but the opium never came. Hajee Mohamed Carroon, Persian, received the money—two drafts for \$3000 and \$4000 respectively. The drafts were signed at an interval of a month between each. The money was paid to Carroon so that he might send opium, but the opium was never sent. Carroon had disappeared from London, and he was unable to find him. Hajee Mohamed Sadock, a Persian merchant in Bombay, who became bankrupt about a year ago, was due the debtor a sum of \$1021.21. Hajee Abdool Bahman Shirazee, the bankrupt's proxy in Bombay, had informed him that only a British agent would be paid. He had a doubtful claim for \$265.75 against the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., in respect of opium purchased in the Colony upon which the Bank made an advance. The opium was shipped to Taiwan, and from there to Hongkong, but it was taken from there by a British gunboat, and he was left with the troubles in Formosa. The opium came back to Hongkong through the Bank's agents, who were also his agents. When the opium arrived the Bank asked for payment under the letters of hypothecation. He was unable to pay because the opium was damaged, and he refused to take delivery. If the goods had not been damaged he should have been able to sell and pay the Bank. The Bank had power to sell. He had fully secured creditors to the amount of \$7053.80. They had not been paid, and \$161.13 was the amount realized over and above the second debts. His company done a business of \$50,000 a year, and he had a doubtful claim for \$265.75 against the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., in respect of opium purchased in the Colony upon which the Bank made an advance. The opium was shipped to Taiwan, and from there to Hongkong, but it was taken from there by a British gunboat, and he was left with the troubles in Formosa. The opium came back to Hongkong through the Bank's agents, who were also his agents. When the opium arrived the Bank asked for payment under the letters of hypothecation. He was unable to pay because the opium was damaged, and he refused to take delivery. If the goods had not been damaged he should have been able to sell and pay the Bank. The Bank had power to sell. He had fully secured creditors to the amount of \$7053.80. They had not been paid, and \$161.13 was the amount realized over and above the second debts. His company done a business of \$50,000 a year, and he had a doubtful claim for \$265.75 against the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., in respect of opium purchased in the Colony upon which the Bank made an advance.

By His Lordship.—He remitted money from time to time to his brother, and from time to time got goods back, but he did not know when he commenced to remit. He remitted on an average \$6,000 per annum in money and goods to his brother, including interest. He did not settle accounts with him from time to time. His position in bankruptcy was in March, 1897, and he had written to his brother about it, but he had not heard from his brother for the last three years, ever since he pressed him for settlement. There were no lawyers in Shirazee, and he had not been able to get any satisfaction.

The examination then concluded.

ABOUT A MONTH ago, at various points of the Sussex coast in the vicinity of Brighton, there were cast up by the sea a number of cases of medical stores, and also a lifeboat bearing the name of H.M.S. *Daring*. The cases were addressed to the dispensary of the Royal Naval Hospital, but there is nothing to show what ship they came from.

The commonest motto in the Army (says a writer in *The British Realm*) is *No opera ferent*. This accompanies the White Horse badge, which was conferred on many regiments soon after the accession of George I. The following corps still bear it—(1) The King's Own Hussars, King's (Liverpool) Regiment, Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment, Royal Welch Fusiliers, and the Royal North Devonshire Regiment.

WEATHER REPORT.

The following notice is issued from the Observatory:—

On the 25th at 10.50 a.m. Barometric changes are unimportant. The intensity of still lies over China, and pressure probably remains low in E. Japan. Gradients moderate on the China coast, steep in the China Sea. Forecast—fresh to moderate N. winds; fine, clear N. and N.E. gales in the N. part of the China Sea.

CHESS COLUMN.

CONDUCTED BY 'BLACK BISHOP'.

Communications should be addressed, 'CHINA MAIL OFFICE'. Original Problems should be accompanied by Solution and Analysis.

The Hongkong Chess Club meets every Monday, Thursday and Friday from four till half-past seven p.m. at the Public Library, 18 Bock Buildings.

Problem No. 69.
By J. JENSEN, Sverborg.
Black (8 Pieces).



White (9 pieces).

White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to Problem No. 67 by F. M. Teed.

1. R-B7 Then if 1. KxKt 2. R-K7

1. P-K4 2. R-B4

1. Kt moves 2. R-B7

Correct solution received from R. Lapeley.

Hongkong, Nov. 25.

To-night is played at the Chess Club a single-game match between members under thirty-five and those over that age. Games may be postponed and played to-morrow or on Monday to suit the convenience of competitors. I submit the programme for December:—
Monday, 29th November; Thursday, 2nd December; Monday, 5th December. Mucho Gambit Match. No class odds. Best out of three games. Mucho Gambit Compulsory.

Thursday, 9th December; Monday, 13th December; Thursday, 16th December. International Match. First round. Terms and conditions to be announced.
Thursday, 30th December. Exhibition of simultaneous play. Particulars to be announced.

I see that the *Times* chess column publishes the score of the Hongkong-Singapore games. I have already commented on the defective organization at our end which culminated in the unfortunate defeat of Game No. 1, and do not intend to say anything further about it. I trust that by this time all the slight squabbles which the result may have been blown away and forgotten, and that we may all work harmoniously through the winter. Mention of the winter leads me to suggest that the Club might be well to consider otherwise by merely neglecting the ventilation. I am looking forward to the International Match next month and in January. If a good team can be produced from each of the three predominant nationalities here, and I see no reason why it should not, a most interesting match should result.

In their first League match, North London defeated the Post Office chess club somewhat sensationally by 16 wins and 4 draws out of 20 games played. British chess is the poorer by the death of the veteran French player, M. Favrot, and of the young French master, Van Lempe, both of whom were English by adoption. For many weeks we have heard nothing of the movements of Steinitz, Lasker, Pillsbury or Showalter. The second compulsory cannot be permitted to rest inactive much longer on the laurels he won at Moscow. A great tournament at Vienna was all the while announced with a long list of valuable prizes. It will be a long time before an Interport match can be held in Hongkong, but at present the chess club does all it can by extending the heartiest of welcomes to all visiting players.

The Singapore Free Press announces that it is proposed to hold a consultation tournament shortly in connection with the Singapore Chess Club. Four players at present are in the contest, and it is expected to be found almost impossible to handicap the players in a satisfactory manner. It has been suggested as far as possible to pair players in classes 1, 2 and 3 with Knight and Rook men, the players drawn from classes 1, 2 and 3 having a casting vote on the expiration of the time limit to any position where the consulting players are unable to mutually agree. A time limit of five minutes is to be fixed for each move, with a possible discretion of two or three minutes more in any critical position.

The Mucho Gambit needs no introduction. Most enticing of all the initial sacrifices possible it hurls almost all White's forces against Black's King's side while his Queen's side is still cramped and undeveloped. I have already given many instances, but here I add three more to show how in skilful hands the attack may win in spite of the heavy loss voluntarily incurred. Of course it is only the minority in which the attack wins that find their way into print.

Game No. 171.

Played at Vienna in 1887.

MUCHO GAMBIT.

White (Dr. Gold.)	Black (Dr. Kodanovsky.)
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. P-KB4	P-K4
3. Kt-KB3	P-Kt4
4. B-B4	P-Kt5
5. Castles	P-Kt6
6. P-Q3	P-Kt7
7. Q-B3	P-Kt8
8. Q-BP	P-Kt9
9. Q-BP	P-Kt10
10. Q-BP	P-Kt11
11. R-Q	P-Kt12
12. Q-K-B3	P-Kt13
13. B-P	P-Kt14
14. Kt-Kt	P-Kt15
15. Q-R-B3	P-Kt16
16. R-Kt3ch	P-Kt17
17. Kt-B6	P-Kt18
18. R-R4	P-Kt19
19. R-Kt4	P-Kt20
20. R-Kt4	P-Kt21

Game No. 172.

MUCHO GAMBIT.

White (H. E. Bird.)	Black (H. E. Bird.)
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. P-KB4	P-K4
3. Kt-KB3	P-Kt4
4. B-B4	P-Kt5
5. Castles	P-Kt6
6. P-Q3	P-Kt7
7. Q-B3	P-Kt8
8. Q-BP	P-Kt9
9. Q-BP	P-Kt10
10. Q-BP	P-Kt11
11. R-Q	P-Kt12
12. Q-K-B3	P-Kt13
13. B-P	P-Kt14
14. Kt-Kt	P-Kt15
15. Q-R-B3	P-Kt16
16. R-Kt3ch	P-Kt17
17. Kt-B6	P-Kt18
18. R-R4	P-Kt19
19. R-Kt4	P-Kt20
20. R-Kt4	P-Kt21

Game No. 173.
One of twenty simultaneous games played by Captain Mackenzie at the Manhattan Chess Club, New York, in 1883.

MUCHO GAMBIT.

White (G. H. Mackenzie.)	Black (G. H. Mackenzie.)
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. P-KB4	P-K4
3. Kt-KB3	P-Kt4
4. B-B4	P-Kt5
5. Castles	P-Kt6
6. P-Q3	P-Kt7
7. Q-B3	P-Kt8
8. Q-BP	P-Kt9
9. Q-BP	P-Kt10
10. Q-BP	P-Kt11
11. R-Q	P-Kt12
12. Q-K-B3	P-Kt13
13. B-P	P-Kt14
14. Kt-Kt	P-Kt15
15. Q-R-B3	P-Kt16
16. R-Kt3ch	P-Kt17
17. Kt-B6	P-Kt18
18. R-R4	P-Kt19
19. R-Kt4	P-Kt20
20. R-Kt4	P-Kt21

White to play and mate in two moves.

Solution to Problem No. 67 by F. M. Teed.

1. R-B7 Then if 1. KxKt 2. R-K7

1. P-K4 2. R-B4

1. Kt moves 2. R-B7

Correct solution received from R. Lapeley.

THE MELPOMENE-PATROCLUS COLLISION.

THE JUDGMENT.

The judgment rendered by Judge Wilkison at Yokohama in the *Melpomene* collision case occupied nearly three columns in the *Japan Herald*. We take the following extract from the concluding part of it:—
The law in cases of collision does measure out responsibility in halves, and the problem in the present case is whether it is not to be measured out in halves. In *Marsden's* 'Collisions at Sea,' the following is given as the apparent result of the cases as applied to cases of collision:—
(1) A ship, A, may recover full damages against another, B, though she, A, has been guilty of negligence contributing to the collision, provided B, could, with ordinary care, have avoided it to the moment of the collision, have avoided it.

(2) A, can recover nothing, though B, is guilty of negligence contributing to the collision, if A, by ordinary care, could have avoided it to the moment of the collision, could have avoided it.
(3) A, may recover half her loss, though she has been guilty of negligence contributing to the collision and rendering the collision unavoidable except by extraordinary care on the part of the *Melpomene*.

The lowering of the anchor was a reasonable and proper precaution to take, and I agree with the assessors in thinking that Master of the *Melpomene* took that precaution to prevent the 'agony of the moment' excuse applying, but under all the circumstances I consider that the Master of the *Melpomene* if he had lowered the anchor would have been exercising extraordinary care rather than ordinary care within the meaning of the rule. I find that the dragging was not a remote cause, but one of the proximate causes of the damage.—
Kobe Chronicle.

A REMARKABLE scene occurred at a meeting of the Christian Missionary Alliance held at the American Theatre at New York on the 17th Oct., when Mr Henry Varley, of London, and other popular evangelists pleaded for funds to aid the missionaries in Africa, India, and China. Stirred by their appeals, the entire audience, men, women, and children, emptied their pockets, giving up money, cheques, watches and jewellery. Many contributed over a thousand dollars, and one man gave his valuable New Jersey farm. The total collections at the morning and afternoon meetings exceeded \$70,000.

It seems to be recognized (says the *Pioneer Mail*) that the *Peshawar* column will have an important part to play in the campaign against opium, and a battery of 12-pounder guns, with a complement of 100 men, is now being organized. A 'Battery Royal Horse Artillery, Rawalpindi, will furnish the guns and gunners. Considering the difficult nature of the country in the lower Bara Valley, we doubt if elephants will be able to work through the defiles and over the hills, but if operations have to be undertaken in the Bara Valley, they can readily move as far as China. General Maude took elephants with him to the valley in 1878.

Mr Hall, British Consul at Kobe, in his report on the trade of Hiogo and Osaka in 1896, writes:—During the first half of the year trade was brisk, during the latter half, owing mainly to excessive rains and agricultural disasters from floods throughout the country, trade was mostly stagnant. A sure sign of dullness in trade in Japan is an increase in the number of applications for surveys of goods alleged to be not equal to sample, and there were twenty-seven such applications made to this Consulate last year, mostly in the latter half, as against a previous yearly average of less than a third of that number. When the Japanese merchant finds that the goods he has ordered through a foreign merchant resident here will arrive on a falling market, he becomes very exacting as regards perfect correspondence between the goods and the sample, attaching great importance even to a minute variation in the shade of a colour. He therefore objects to the delivery of the goods unless an abatement is made in the price on account of the alleged inferiority to sample. The foreign merchant is consequently obliged to apply to the Consulate of the home manufacturer's nationality for a survey by experts in that line of goods with the general result that the manufacturer has to stand the loss of the abatement allowed, as well as of the surveyor's fees. Anything as this practice must necessarily be at times to the home manufacturer, it is obvious that the cure for it is not to be sought in the direction of dealing at first hand with the Japanese importers.

NOTES FROM TIENTSIN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The situation of the Foreign Settlement of Tientsin is unique among the ports of China. It lies along the banks of the Peiho, the course of which is tortuous, and as the streets were originally laid out to be parallel with the general course of the river, the points of the compass are not only ignored but set at complete defiance, so that there are foreigners who have spent long years in this port without being able to tell you which way is 'South'. This, however, is not the eccentricity of which we are speaking, but the fact that owing to the low level of the adjacent land in every direction, there is very little opportunity for expansion, and absolutely none without a long and expensive process of filling up holes that have in past years been dug for the raising of the original lots.

The result of this process, continued for nearly forty years, has been to intersperse the limitless graveyards with deep pits, each a complete barrier to the extension of the municipality. Many of the graves were without owners, and sacred for that reason alone. In China, a man is never quite so much of an abstraction as when he is dead. Many of the old lots have had graves upon them with which no one could meddle, and of which one could by no possibility get rid. In one of the compounds there has long been a graveyard of this sort, which the foreigners disliked, and which was at one time actually bargained for at the price of Taels 280. But the negotiations—through the fault of the foreigners, however, it should be said—fell through, and for many years the graves have been an eyesore, until recently the persistence of the Chinese has been rewarded by getting Taels 2000 for this bit of land. In consequence of a recent extensive addition to the British settlement, the work of filling in goes on at an even brisker rate than ever before, and where the earth comes from is a mystery, until one finds whole fleets of long and narrow boats—like crescents—through the slender and tortuous waterways between the graves, and discharge their slimy cargoes to make fresh land over which the Western Barbarian will be able to indulge intermittent fever *ad libitum*, an amusement now one of the permanent assets of Tientsin. The

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